

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1165

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIYLEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, PGOV, NI

SUBJECT: NEW BROOM CONTINUES SWEEP THROUGHT CIVIL SERVICE : 102

FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS RETIRED OR DISMISSED

REF: A. LAGOS 8161 B. IBADAN 397 (ALL NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NIGERIA'S NEW LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO RETIRE AND DISMISS CIVIL SERVANTS. MASS RETIREMENTS WHICH HAVE HIT SEVERAL OF STATES MATCHED SEPTEMBER 12 WITH 102 RETIREMENTS/DISMISSALS FROM FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE. INCLUDED WERE FIVE PERMANENT SECRETARIES AND NAGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA. SAME DAY LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED SEIZURE LAND SEVERAL PROMINENT NIGERIANS IN LAGOS AREA. ADMIN-ISTRATION GOVERNMENT ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CONTINUING DISMISSASL AND RANKS INFLUENTIAL NIGERIANS WITH GRUDGE AGAINST NEW LEADERSHIP GROWS. END SUMMARY.

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1. NIGERIA'S NEW LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO CUT SWATH THROUGH RANKS OF CIVIL SERVANTS (REFTEL A). MASS RETIREMENTS AT STATE LEVELS (E.G. NEW GOVERNOR OF WESTERN STATE HAS BEEN BUSY IN IBADAN, REFTEL B) NOW MATCHED WITH RETIREMENT SEPTEMBER 12 OF FIFTY-TWO FEDERAL CIVIL

SERVANTS AND DISMISSAL FIFTY MORE ON DISCIPLINARY GROUNDS. SAME DAY, LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED TWENTY-EIGHT INFLUENTIAL NIGERIANS WITH MORE THAN ONE PLOT OF LAND ON VICTORIA AND IKOYI ISLANDS IN LAGOS WOULD FORFEIT AT LEAST SOME OF LAND TO LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT.

2. AMONG THOSE PROMINENT NIGERIAN CIVIL SERVANTS RETIRED WITH FULL BENEFITS ARE FIVE SUBSTANTIVE PERMANENT SECRETARIES: P.C. ASIODU (HOUSING, FORMERLY PETROLEUM CZAR); MALAMA IBRAHIM DAMCIDA (FINANCE); J.A. ADEYEYE (TRADE); ALHAJI A. TATARI ALI (INFORMATION); AND FRANCIS OBI (AVIATION AND NIGERIA AIRWAYS). A FORMER PERMSEC AND PRESENT NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA, VICTOR ADEGOROYE, ALSO RETIRED WITH FULL BENEFITS. OTHERS WHO GOT AXE INCLUDE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR PRISONS; DIRECTOR GENERAL POST AND TELEGRAPHS (T. AKINDELE); GENERAL MANAGER NIGERIAN EXTERNAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS (VICTOR HAFFNER); DIRECTOR INLAND WATERWAYS (W.A.E. GEORGEL); AND DEPUTY PERMSECS IN MINISTRIES COMMUNICATIONS AND INDUSTRIES. MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS, EXTERNAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MINISTRY FINANCE AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PARTICULARLY HARD HIT WITH RETIREMENTS.

3. AMONG THOSE PROMINENT NIGERIANS WHO HAVE HAD PROPERTY SEIZED BY LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT ARE FORMER MILITARY GOVERNOR BRIGADIER (RETIRED) MOBOLAJI JOHNSON; CHIEF HENRY FAJEMIROKUN, A VERY WEALTHY AND INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMAN/ENTREPRENEUR; THE OBA OF LAGOS; RETIRED JUSTICES G.B.A. COKER AND S.O. LAMBO; FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE SIR ADETOKUNBO ADEMOLA; FORMER IGP KAM SELEM; RECENTLY RETIRED CHAIRMAN FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ALHAJI SULE KATAGUM; AND CHIEF T.O.S. BENSON. ANNOUNCEMENT NOTES THAT FORMER HEAD OF STATE GOWON IS TO RETAIN ONE PLOT OF LAND. LAGOS STATE GOVERNOR CAPTAIN LAWAL APPOINTED SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO HANDLE CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION WHICH "MAY" PISE.

4. COMMENT: WAVE OF UNCERTAINTY WHICH HAS HAMPERED CARRYING ON OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUSINESS IN FEDERAL MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS CONTINUES. IN ADDITION WORRYING ABOUT JOB SECURITY, MANY CIVIL SERVANTS MUST HAVE REASON LOOK OVER SHOULDER AND NOTE THAT NEW FMG SEEMS INTENT ON TAKING SOME ACTION AGAINST CORRUPT WOFFICIALS AND THOSE WHO HAVE USED POSITIONS AMASS PERSONAL WEALTH. IT MAY BE THAT SEIZURE ASSETS AND DISMISSAL OR RETIREMENT FROM CIVIL SERVICE IS WHERE NEW REGIME INTENDS DRAW THE LINE, THUS AVOIDING DANGERS OF PUBLIC INQUIRIES.

5. WHATEVER THE CASE, HOWEVER, IF WAVE DISMISSALS
CONTINUES ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT
CANNOT HELP BUT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. NEW FMG HAS
MADE ITS POINT SEVERAL TIMES OVER - IT IS FIRMLY OPPOSED GRAFT,
CORRUPTION AND ABUSE PUBLIC OFFICE. WHILE THIS NO DOUBT POPULAR
AMONG NIGERIAN PUBLIC, RANKS OF THOSE PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL
NIGERIANS WITH GRUDGE AGAINST THIS YOUNG, NEW-BROOM ADMINISTRATION
ARE BEING AUGMENTED ALMOST DAILY. FURTHER, MOVE AGAINST
FAJEMIROKUN AND OBA OF LAGOS PUTS FMG IN OPPOSITION ELEMENTS NIGERIAN
POWER STRUCTURE WHICH HAVE HERETOFORE BEEN EXEMPT FROM
GOVERNMENT ACTIONS THIS SORT. END COMMENT.
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